

*I claim:*

- 1) A computer implemented method for performing the business of placing a digital image processing and fulfillment order via a communications network comprising:
  - a) identifying a user;
  - b) acquiring an at least one digital image captured by a digital imaging device;
  - c) associating profile, personalization and customization aspects to said identified user into a user provisioner;
  - d) automatically performing a single-event instantiation process which completes a user request, said single-event instantiation process including sending a processing and fulfillment order along with the user provisioner to a plurality of system components, the plurality of system components operating to fulfill said user request;
  - e) receiving said user request under control of a single-event instantiation of a plurality of processing and fulfillment system components;
  - f) retrieving the provisioner associated with said identified user;
  - g) determining payment and authorization methods using said user provisioner;
  - h) retrieving a fulfillment delivery method using said user provisioner;
  - i) providing for user personalization and customization of the order processing and fulfillment workflow using said user provisioner;
  - j) fulfilling said processing and fulfillment order to complete processing and fulfillment of the single-event instance; and
  - k) whereby the processing and fulfillment order is completed without using a software application, a web online service, or a traditional shopping cart ordering model.
- 2) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically performing a single-event instantiation process is the result identification of the user and acquisition said at least one digital image.
- 3) The method of claim 1 wherein the user does not need to explicitly, directly or indirectly, specify operations, manipulations or enhancements on the at least one digital

image, either singularly or as a group or collection, when placing a processing and fulfillment order.

- 4) The method of claim 1 wherein user identification involves entry of user id and password in a single-event instantiation.
- 5) The method of claim 1 wherein user identification involves an email address and password in a single-event instantiation.
- 6) The method of claim 1 wherein user identification is a credit card/ATM swipe in a single-event instantiation.
- 7) The method of claim 1 wherein user identification in a single-event instantiation is enabled through a smart chip enabled device.
- 8) The method of claim 1 wherein user identification in a single-event instantiation is enabled through a biometric identification.
- 9) The method of claim 1 wherein the single-event instantiation of user identification is a self mailer/drop-off mailer model.
- 10) The method of claim 1 wherein the acquisition of digital images is made via a direct cable link to the digital imaging device.
- 11) The method of claim 1 wherein the acquisition of digital images is made via a wireless link to the digital imaging device.
- 12) The method of claim 1 wherein the acquisition of digital photographs uses a digital media memory card reader.
- 13) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital imaging device is a digital still camera device.

- 14) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital imaging device is a digital video camera device.
- 15) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital imaging device is a mobile radiotelephone device.
- 16) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital imaging device is a portable digital assistant computing device with digital camera extension.
- 17) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a single user and the information regarding the user is captured dynamically and additional information augments the dynamic user information during the single-event instantiation of a processing and fulfillment order.
- 18) The method of claim 1 wherein the entire single-event instantiation of a processing and fulfillment order offers a preview of the entire processing and fulfillment workflow to verify and validate that all options are valid and available as specified by the user provisioner.
- 19) The method of claim 1 wherein the presentation of information captured during a preview of the entire processing and fulfillment workflow permits the user to fine-tune choices and options prior to final commitment.
- 20) The method of claim 1 wherein the client system and the plurality of system components communicate via a Wide Area Network such as the Internet.
- 21) The method of claim 1 wherein the client system and the plurality of system components communicate via a secure connection utilizing encryption for those portions of the processing and fulfillment order for which security and privacy are desired.

22) The method of claim 1 wherein the client system connects to a plurality of system components comprising:

- a) under control of an individual system component, the means to receive a processing and fulfillment order from either a client system or from another system component;
- b) and, within each system component contain the necessary computing resources to locate additional information needed to execute their individual affects on the processing and fulfillment order;
- c) and, within each system component contain the necessary computing resources to access and augment the user provisioner needed to execute their individual affects on the processing and fulfillment order and update the provisioner as necessary to reflect the system component is complete.

23) The method of claim 1 wherein the system components can serve multiple purposes in completing one or more aspects of the processing and fulfillment order.

24) The method of claim 1 wherein the system components can process multiple single-event instantiations of the user request processing and fulfillment order, each mutually independent from each other.

25) The method of claim 1 wherein one system component is a server offering one or more different processing and fulfillment behaviors.

26) The method of claim 1 wherein one system component is user email account displaying an email information message pertinent to the user request processing and fulfillment order status.

27) The method of claim 1 wherein one system component is a user text messaging account destination displaying information pertinent to the user request processing and fulfillment order.

28) The method of claim 1 wherein one system component is a user text messaging account destination displaying information pertinent to the user request processing and fulfillment order.

29) A digital image system enabling a user to download digital images and fulfill digital image processing requests in a manner personalized to said user , said digital image system comprising:

a first computing environment for initiating digital image order requests, said first computing environment operable to receive a download of digital images from a user together with an order request from said user related to said digital images, said first computing environment including a provisioner related to said user, said provisioner storing user profile information, user personalization information, and user customization information, said provisioner utilized in fulfilling said order request in a manner personalized to said user;

a second computing environment for fulfilling said order request, said second computing environment coupled to said first computing environment, said second computing environment including at least one fulfillment device; and

wherein said first and second computing environments are operable to process and fulfill said order request utilizing said at least one fulfillment device.

30) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein:

said digital image system is a digital photograph system for processing digital photograph order requests.

31) A digital image system as recited in claim 30, wherein:

said first computing environment includes an automatic teller machine used as a user interface for said first computing environment.

32) A digital image system as recited in claim 30, wherein:

said first computing environment includes a computer kiosk used as a user interface for said first computing environment.

33) A digital image system as recited in claim 30, wherein:

said first computing environment includes a desktop computer system located at a retail photography store, said desktop computer system used as a user interface for said first computer environment.

34) A digital image system as recited in claim 32, wherein said first computing environment includes a user interface located at a retail store.

35) A digital image system as recited in claim 34, wherein said retail store is a retail photography store which also provides analog photography processing.

36) A digital image system as recited in claim 34, wherein said retail store is a coffee shop.

37) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first computing environment includes a user interface operable to query said user for information, receive information from said user, and to provide feedback to said user regarding status of said order request.

38) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said user interface includes a plurality of electronic screens which guide said user through user authorization, and entry of said order request.

39) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first computing environment includes a communications channel for coupling with a digital camera in order to download said digital images from said digital camera.

40) A digital image system as recited in claim 39, wherein said communications channel is wireless technology.

41) A digital image system as recited in claim 39, wherein said communications channel is infrared (IR) technology.

42) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first computing environment includes a device for receiving a digital camera expansion memory source, whereby said device is used in downloading said digital images.

43) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first and second computing environments are connected via a wide area network such as the Internet.

44) A digital image system as recited in claim 43, wherein said connection between said first and second computing environments is a secure connection utilizing encryption for those portions of the processing and fulfillment order for which security and privacy are desired.

45) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said order fulfillment device is a persistent memory device such as a CD-ROM burner.

46) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said order fulfillment device is a presentation medium such as a display screen, an audio device, or a tactile device.

47) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said order fulfillment device is a means for producing a hard copy output such as digital image printing device.

48) A digital image system as recited in claim 29, wherein said first computing environment is further operable to verify whether said user is authorized to use said first and second computing environments to fulfill said requested order.

49) A digital image system further comprising a monetization process operable to monetize order fulfillment.

50) A digital image system as recited in claim 29 wherein said first and second computing environments are a scale-free distributed computing environment.

51) A digital photography system enabling a user to download digital photography images and fulfill digital photography requests, said digital photography system comprising:

a first computing environment for initiating digital photography order requests, said first computing environment operable to receive a download of digital photography images from a user together with an order request from said user related to said digital photography images, said first computing environment including a user interface operable to query for and receive information from said user, said first computing environment including a provisioner related to said user, said provisioner storing user profile information, user personalization information, and user customization information, said provisioner utilized in fulfilling said order request in a manner personalized to said user;



a second computing environment for fulfilling said order request, said second computing environment coupled to said first computing environment, said second computing environment including at least one fulfillment device; and

wherein said first and second computing environments are operable to process, fulfill and monetize said order request utilizing said at least one fulfillment device.

52) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said user interface includes a plurality of electronic screens which guide said user through user authorization, and entry of said order request.

53) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said first computing environment includes a communications channel for directly coupling with a digital camera in order to download said digital photography images from said digital camera.

54) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said first computing environment includes a device for receiving a digital camera expansion memory source, whereby said device is used in downloading said digital photography images.

55) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said first and second computing environments are connected via a wide area network such as the Internet.

56) A digital photography system as recited in claim 55, wherein said connection between said first and second computing environments is a secure connection utilizing encryption.

57) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said order fulfillment device is a persistent storage mechanism such as a CD-ROM burner.

58) A digital photography system as recited in claim 51, wherein said order

fulfillment device is a digital photography-printing device.

59) A digital photography system enabling a user to download digital photography images and fulfill digital photography requests, said digital photography system comprising:

a first computing environment for initiating digital photography order requests, said first computing environment including:

a user interface operable to query said user for information, receive information from said user, and provide feedback to said user regarding status of said order request;

a communications channel for coupling to either a digital camera or a digital camera expansion memory in order to download said digital photography images into said first computing environment; and

a provisioner related to said user, said provisioner storing user profile information, user personalization information, and user customization information, said provisioner utilized in fulfilling said order request in a manner personalized to said user;

a second computing environment for fulfilling said order request, said second computing environment coupled to said first computing environment, said second computing environment including at least one fulfillment device.

60) A digital photography system as recited in claim 59, wherein said first computing environment is remote with respect to said second computing environment.

61) A digital photography system as recited in claim 59, wherein said first computing environment includes a computer device within a retail store which provides said user interface.

62) A digital photography system as recited in claim 61, wherein said retail store is a coffee shop.

63) A digital photography system as recited in claim 59, wherein said first computing environment includes a computer device owned by said user, said computer device providing said user said user interface, said computer device coupled to said first computing device via the Internet.

64) A computer implemented method for fulfilling user digital photography orders, said computer implemented method comprising:

- maintaining a provisioner database storing data regarding a plurality of authorized users;

- receiving a digital photography order from a first user;

- obtaining identity information regarding said first user;

- determining whether said first user is authorized via a process involving said identity information and said provisioner database; and

- performing the following when said first user is determined to be authorized:

- retrieving digital photography images from a storage medium provided by said first user;

- verifying integrity of said retrieved digital photography images; and

- processing said digital photography images in accordance with first user data stored in said provisioner database.

65) A computer implemented method as recited in claim 64, wherein maintaining said provisioner database includes prompting said first user for enrollment into said provisioner database when said first user is not authorized.

66) A computer implemented method as recited in claim 64, wherein said first user couples a digital camera directly to a computing environment in order to download said digital photography images.

67) A computer implemented method as recited in claim 64, wherein said first user couples a digital camera expansion memory to a computing environment in order to download said digital photography images.

68) A digital storage device storing a provisioner data structure being a single instance instantiation of a workflow strategy, said provisioner data structure comprising:

static profile information regarding a specific user;

dynamic information regarding how said specific user wishes to personalize a processing and fulfillment order; and

dynamic information regarding how said specific user wishes to personalize a specific workflow strategy.

69) A digital storage device as recited in claim 68, wherein said digital storage device is a digital media memory card.

70) A digital storage device as recited in claim 68, wherein said digital storage device is a smart card.

71) A digital storage device as recited in claim 68, wherein said digital storage device is a credit card.

72) A digital storage device as recited in claim 68, wherein said digital storage device is a digital media memory card.

73) A digital storage device having a provisioner proxy indirecting into a database of provisioners.